

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03254 280451Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 PM-05 CIAE-00
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R 271208Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1707
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCO SIXATAF
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
HQ USAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3254

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAIR, CY, TU
SUBJ: MFA NOTE SUGGESTS TRANSITING AIRCRAFT CONTACT ERCAN

REF: ANKARA DEFENSE ATTACHE 0487 (DTG 200750Z APR 78)

1. A HARDENING OF THE TURKISH POSITION ON ERCAN CONTROL CENTER IS INDICATED IN THE TURKISH MFA'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE #1620, DATED APRIL 21 AND RECEIVED BY EMBASSY APRIL 25, WHICH GIVES PERMISSION FOR OVERFLIGHT OF TURKEY BY THREE F-14A AIRCRAFT BEING FERRIED TO IRAN, ALONG WITH ACCOMPANYING REFUELING TANKER. THE NOTE INCLUDES LIST OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR OVERFLIGHT PROCEDURES WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS FOR LAST SUCH OVERFLIGHT WITH THE NOTABLE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING, WHICH APPEARS IN PARENTHESES AT THE END OF SECTION ON OBSERVATION OF TURKISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER INSTRUCTIONS:

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"(IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE APPROPRIATE THAT THE AIRCRAFT ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ERCAN CONTROL CENTRE, SO THAT THE FLIGHT TRANSFER REPORTS COULD BE FORWARDED TO ANKARA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE THROUGH ERCAN CONTROL CENTRE.)"

2. COMMENT: GOT CLEARLY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FULL UTILIZATION OF ERCAN CONTROL CENTER, WHICH IS ONLY EFFECTIVE

CONTROL CENTER IN THE CONCERNED PORTION OF THE ANKARA FIR.
DIRECT RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND ANKARA AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROL CENTER IS APPARENTLY NOT POSSIBLE IN THIS SECTION,
AND OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ALL OTHER AIR TRAFFIC IN THIS
PORTION OF ANKARA FIR IS COORDINATED BY ERCAN. WHILE THERE
ARE OBVIOUS POLITICAL UNDERTONES IN REQUESTS FOR US UTILIZATION
OF ERCAN SERVICES, THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION,
WHERE US AIRCRAFT ARE THE ONLY LOOSE ELEMENT IN AN OTHERWISE
COORDINATED SYSTEM OF TRAFFIC CONTROL, CREATES A SAFETY HAZARD
WHICH IS OF GENUINE CONCERN.
SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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